

**Traffic Safety Advisory Committee**  
**March 19, 2012**  
**Minutes**

Present:       Gil Archambault – Chairman  
                  Chief Fred Douglas  
                  Richard Tortorelli  
                  Gary Daniels – Board of Selectmen representative

                  Mark Fougere  
                  Eric Schelberg, Ambulance director  
                  John Noble, resident of 226 Whitten Rd.

Absent:         Bill Parker, Rick Riendeau, Dave Wheeler

Secretary:     Mindy Lavallee, Recording Secretary

1.   *Roll Call vote required by the BOS.*

2.   *Approval of minutes from October 17, 2011*

G. Archambault requested that the phrase “the Chairman of the Committee” in line 31 be replaced with “The Traffic Safety Committee”.

F. Douglas made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction.

G. Daniels seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes from October 17, 2011; none were opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

3.   *New Hampshire Highway Safety Grant Application – Presented by Chief Douglas*

F. Douglas stated the grant was for October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013. The grant money would be put toward selected traffic enforcement in town, bicycle helmets and laptop computers to replace several that are in the cruisers. He clarified that the bicycle helmets would be to hand out to children. The grant is in the amount of \$625.00.

G. Archambault noted that the town could receive a maximum of 25 bicycle helmets.

F. Douglas said the grant requires signatures from three (3) Traffic Safety Committee members as well as the Chairman of the Committee, and must be submitted to the state by March 30, 2012.

G. Archambault made a motion to sign and submit the grant application.

D. Tortorelli seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed.

4.   *Mason Road*

G. Daniels said he was approached by a concerned citizen regarding school buses blocking traffic at the intersection of Osgood Road and Mason Road, heading out toward the armory. He was asked if anything could be done about this.

D. Tortorelli said he has seen traffic back up in this area and it's often due to vehicles trying to make a left turn onto Mason Road. The entire road would need to be redone to fix the situation.

5. *Ambulance Facility/Light on Elm St.*

G. Daniels said that it was not clear if the money appropriated to the ambulance facility, as stated in the warrant article, included the cost of the light. He asked if the Facilities Committee had discussed the logistics.

M. Fougere asked if this is something that would need to be discussed with Bill Drescher.

G. Daniels said the first step would be to determine if the additional light is necessary.

M. Fougere said the new facility should at least be connected to the existing light system on West Street. The Facilities Committee had general discussions as to whether or not a light at the driveway of the new facility, similar to what the Fire Department has on School Street, would be necessary, but a vote was not taken.

E. Schelberg said the Traffic Safety Committee should also consider traffic issues relative to Bales School student pick-up and drop-off. The Fire Department has issues with this as well. He said some solutions that have been discussed include working on a better system with the crossing guards or eliminating parking on the north side of Elm St.

G. Daniels asked if the route from West St. to Knight St. would be a good way for ambulances to maneuver around the Bales School traffic.

E. Schelberg said this is a less desirable route because of the blind corner on Mill Street when travelling eastbound.

G. Daniels said if traffic back-up is regular on Cottage Street, travelling on West Street to Knight Street and Mill Street might be an option.

E. Schelberg said it would be preferable to try and cut through on Cottage Street, or go all the way down to Osgood Road and take a left.

F. Douglas suggested that when the ambulance facility issue is officially recommended to the Traffic Safety Committee, the Bales School should be involved in the discussions, as the main issue is the traffic backing up onto Elm Street, Amherst Street and the Oval. People travelling eastbound wanting to take a left into Bales School are causing westbound traffic to build up. Eliminating parking on the right-hand side of Elm Street would create more problems.

M. Fougere asked if putting up signage on Cottage Street would prevent blockage of this area.

F. Douglas said it is a wide enough road that an ambulance should be able to make the turn. It is after this turn that traffic issues begin.

G. Daniels said the issue should be brought to the attention of the Board of Selectman soon.

G. Archambault asked what it would cost to install a light at the new facility.

M. Fougere said a blinking light would cost between \$30,000.00 and \$35,000.00. Placing the blinking light on a mast arm would add \$75,000.00 to the cost.

E. Schelberg said a lot of the concern was that westbound traffic would stop and backup.

Having a remote receiver, outside of the door, would enable westbound traffic to clear out. This would be the most cost effective.

M. Fougere said tying into the system at West Street and Elm Street is feasible. As to whether a new light is needed or not, it could be something that is dealt with at a later time. He said it may make sense to bring NRPC into future discussions as they might be able to do an analysis of the school traffic problem. He said it may also be beneficial to have a meeting with the current principal and the new incoming principal of Bales School sometime before May.

G. Daniels made a motion to table the issue until the next meeting.

D. Tortorelli seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed.

6. *Revisiting resident concerns at 226 Whitten Rd.*

G. Archambault said the committee has continued to look into this issue and has had discussions about the possibility of putting up a guardrail or rumble strips on Whitten Road. He asked John Noble, resident of 226 Whitten Road, for his input and ideas on the issue.

J. Noble said there are many accidents with vehicles travelling southbound and his main concern is vehicles crashing into his front yard. Dave Wheeler was very helpful in bringing

boulders from his farm free of charge. The boulders prevented a car from entering his yard during an accident several weeks ago.

F. Douglas added that the driver in this particular accident was driving a minimum speed of 64mph and was convicted of reckless conduct.

J. Noble said anything additional the town can do would be very helpful.

G. Daniels said he recommended using cement pillars or a stone wall.

J. Noble said he and his wife looked into the stone wall idea but it is very costly. He added that the speed limit signage that has been placed in this area has not been effective and having more enforcement in the area may be helpful. A rumble strip down the road toward Ches Mae Lane may also be helpful.

G. Daniels said rumble strips could be hazardous in the winter.

D. Tortorelli added that rumble strips trap water and will freeze in the winter. Larger boulders or a guardrail would be a better idea.

J. Noble said he is going to speak to a landscaper about some different options and is also hoping to contact Dave Wheeler about getting more boulders. He said he is unsure who from the Town placed more boulders on his property, but not all of them are 25' from the center road line meaning he could possibly incur liability for having the boulders in the right-of-way.

G. Archambault said the committee would continue to look at the issue and also contact Dave Wheeler about the boulders. He said he would contact J. Noble before the next Traffic Safety Committee meeting.

F. Douglas said the Committee should table the issue until the traffic engineering survey is completed. The engineers want to know the traffic count on Whitten Road as part of their research. They will be following up with Bill Parker on the details of this survey. He added that there have only been six (6) accidents within sight distance of 226 Whitten Road, despite various reports, and most of the accidents were due to operator error.

G. Daniels added that putting up a guardrail may open up the Town to liability. He made a motion to table the issue until the traffic engineering survey is completed.

D. Tortorelli seconded the motion. All were in favor; none were opposed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### *7. Trucks loading/unloading on Bridge St.*

G. Archambault said there is still no sign up in the loading/unloading area of the Oval to identify the loading/unloading zone. The area has also not been painted.

D. Tortorelli said the Town is most likely waiting until later this spring to paint. He said the sign was taken down but has not been put back up and the committee may need to remind DPW to do so.

##### *8. State of the Committee*

G. Archambault said Dana MacAllister is no longer a member of the committee.

G. Daniels said he was still looking into the makeup of the committee and discussions on membership should wait until he can locate the information he needs.

G. Archambault asked if there was any additional business; there was none, so he asked for a motion to adjourn.

D. Tortorelli made the motion to adjourn.

G. Daniels seconded; all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.